

ESSAY ON SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPROVE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF ENGLISH TO MAKE IT A TRUE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIVE WINDOW TO THE WORLD

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Hello! My name's "Teacher Bonny" and I've been asked, by my author, to introduce you a "Set" of some **GOOD, SIMPLE and PRACTICAL IDEAS TO MOTIVATE** young and senior students, to learn English an interesting, useful, necessary and easy language, also one that could be a **Key** to their future. Even help them to find their Vocation.

The first Proposal is ... "something like me, yes, as you're hearing: **The creation** – by the English Teacher of the school, or by the students, of a **Character**, a Unique "nice being," efficient, "hard worker" and representative of the English Department of each different Schools where English is taught.

"He" or "She" should be a nice, active and amusing "person" (or cartoon,) or simply the bird, animal, or pet, that some Schools could already have got. Character that will have **the "mission"** to help Teacher (s) to teach and entertain, at the same time, also to guide and inform Students (of all levels) many things as: News on important School Events, related to English activities. On coming evaluations, etc. being always a sort of "eye catcher," who will **Call, and Focus**, the attention of the students. The "guy" that will be associated and identified with English; its Teaching and Learning, in the school and anywhere his (or her) image be present; In Classrooms, teaching different subjects, according to the levels of the students, on Bulleting boards at The School Library, even at the Cafeteria of the School.

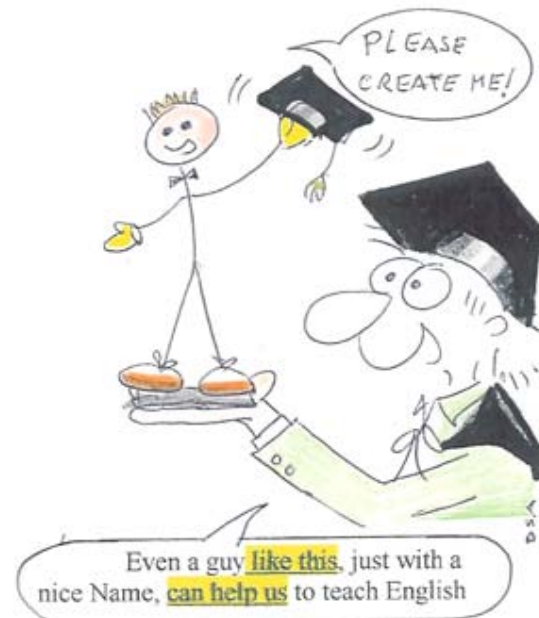
Summarizing **the mission of this Character** ("born" to improve, help, and to amuse the Teaching of English) these are:

- A) **To present, and teach students**, by means of: printed material, pictures, charts, wall papers, photocopies, blackboards, and specific, interesting, and different Unit (s), or Themes (s), that need to be taught and learnt in English by Primary and Secondary students.
- B) **To be in charge** of giving **some tasks** to students some motivated with "little prizes" to win (no expensive for the poor teacher,) like chocolates, magazines, comics, fruits, post cards, etc.

- C) **To Promote Events in English** such as: Conferences, Videos, Forum, Contests, Exhibitions of interesting and Cultural collections, or hobbies, of students (and teachers',) etc.
- D) He (or she,) must be "always ready" to exhibit in classrooms or on specific Bulletin boards of the School. **Displays** on **Cultural Aspects of English Language** as, for example, important American or English Historical dates like Causes of the 4th of July, in 1776. Teach about influences in our own Culture, of many American or English Popular Feasts, Sports, Music, Singers, Bands, Dances, etc. Sticking Lyrics of many well known English songs. Giving summarized Biographies of Great Writers, Poets, Musicians, etc. underlining their contribution, with their important work, to stand out universal and **timeless Values** to Mankind (worth to be adopted and practiced.) Giving interesting Web Sites to students, related with these topics and others. Also promoting the creation of a "School English Monthly Magazine".

Well, **the results will depend on the Imagination** of every English Teacher of each School. The amount of work that could "do" this character and, **by means of that motivation** the rest, of necessary activities, that can be done by the Students. Even The creation of this "English pet" could be the first student's task on next period.

Materials and "costs" to realize this shouldn't be a problem, in any school, even in "poorest" ones, they, all, have got; paper, pencils, glue, markers, Bulletin boards and the like. The Character doesn't have to be a "Venus" herself, or a cute "Apollo," to start this, nor the teacher(s) have to be a "clone(s)" of Da Vinci to draw "him" (or "her").



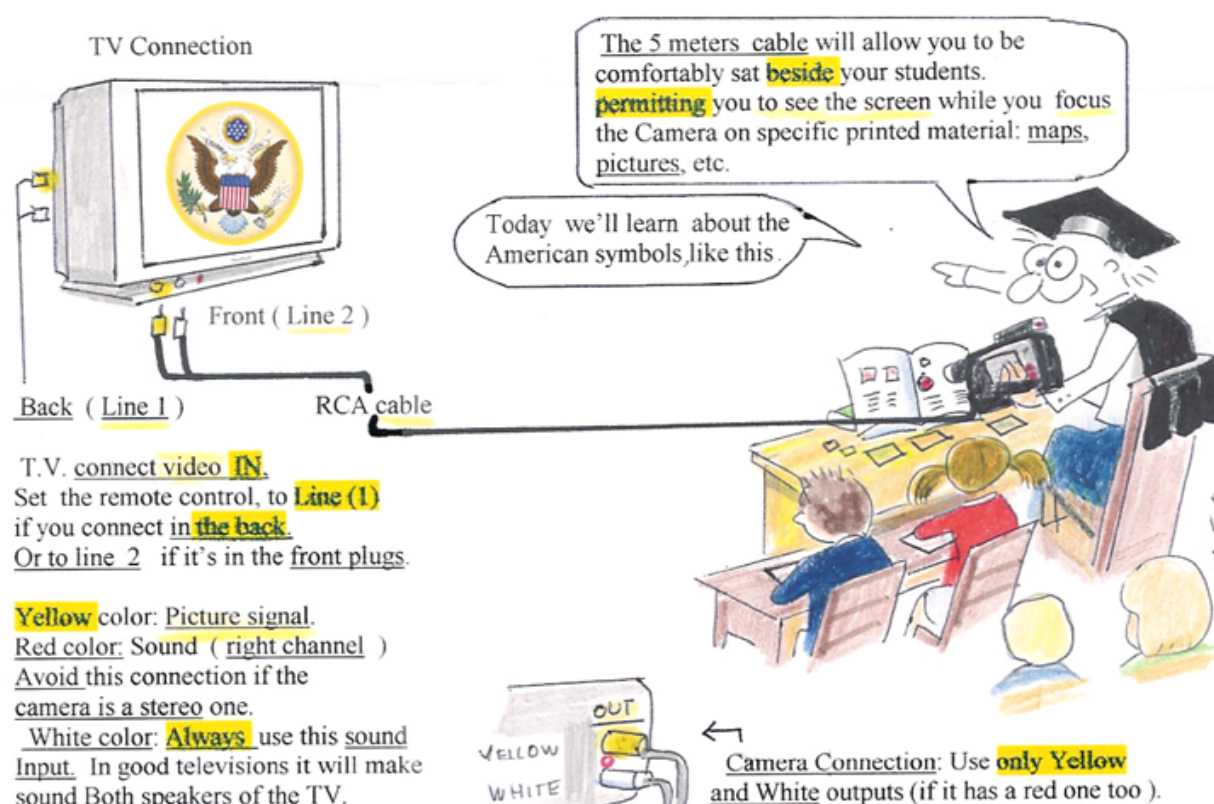
My Second **proposal** to make English a **True Window to the World** consists in doing a **very full use** of One Electronic device that almost **all schools** have got, **but kept locked!**, and this is The **video Camera**.

Some Good ideas on How to get the best didactical benefits using it in class

People, Teachers in this case, don't use it, as it should be, this small, very **useful** and **handy machine** **at all** its **Excellent** Possibilities and as **very didactical** media in class. **They think**, that it's only for **recording** specific events, images, and ...that's all

With a video Camera, plus a T.V. and a cable, with RCA type connectors, 4 or 5 meters Long (costing no more than 6 dollars and available at any Electronic Store, which easy connections are given here) we can create an Excellent Focus or Center of attention to our students in the classroom, teaching amusing endless interesting topics, even to do a Conversation English Class.

First let's see the "technical data" and the easy connections you have to do



SOME OF THE DIDACTICAL USES OF A VIDEO CAMERA (apart of taking video)

1).- You can magnify any small picture, such as a post cards or even a Stamp, sending it directly to the screen of your T.V. All your students, simultaneously, can see that tiny stamp in every detail, you can ask questions about (oral production) focusing your image they listen to you and answer. A blurred image is soon solved; regulating the zoom lens just pressing a button something learnt in few seconds.

This may seem evident, but teachers, specially women, don't use this didactical device. So, with a Camera you won't waste time trying to get student's attention, as when you're using just chalk (apart you give your back to them) You just focus your subject on your notebook and they take note.

2).- You may show **tiny details of a picture**, houses, architectural English styles (for example), parts of a monument, **focused from a small photo of an exclusive book that you have borrowed**. To show The way of dressing of people belonging to old Canadian tribes, all this just focusing a **small** post card. Views of old American Cities, all taken from a report of a Life magazine, from **1968** ("also borrowed.") Show maps, distances between places, etc. In a **phonetic class** you may show, focusing **your own mouth**, and tip of your tongue, to teach the **0 sound**, etc. Everything being "captured" **by all** your students **at the same time**.

3).- **You avoid the use of chalk**, just focus the Camera on your notebook and the students will write what the Camera and the screen are showing. You can **focus on specific words** to be read and later repeated by your students. (In a History Class it's also a Jewel).

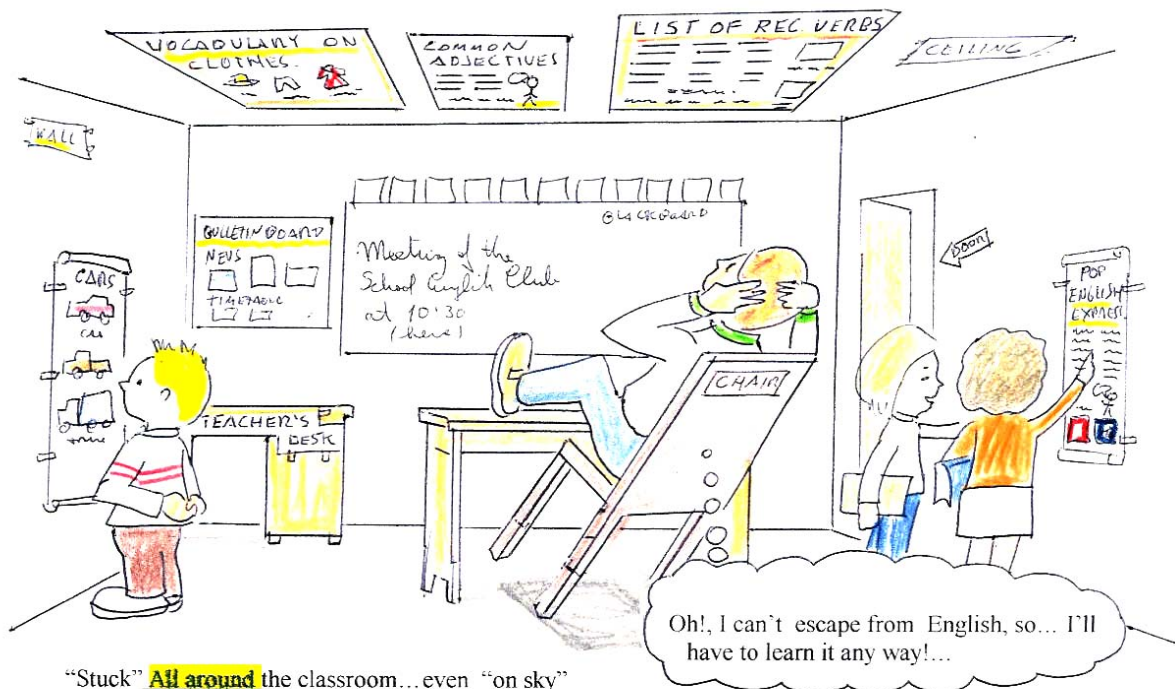
Finally, if one of the students is being **too noisy**, you can **focus him, from your seat**, and if you want, and have a tape ready inside, you can record him as evidence on his behavior. Nobody would deny what the Camera has seen. It also **will contribute to improve** your student's conduct (and respect).



The Third and last **Suggestion to motivate** Student to Learn English **is to Write it on Anyplace**, and **Anywhere**, that be possible. The Clear Objective is **to put English**: Words, Verbs, Sentences, Expressions, Grammar aspects, Pronunciation, Alphabet, etc. **All around** the Student's **Eyes and "Habitat"** inside the School. This means **not only** writing the English name, on paper strips, on **as many objects** as could be possible, (those that surround our students, every day), in places like: classrooms, school's different offices, department, the playground, etc. so covering "every wall" of the school, for this promotion also can be done **Outside, or near**, the School (examples illustrated by Mister Bonny).

This amusing useful work can be made, at least, **once a month**, by the English teacher and his Voluntary group of students in a sort of a: **"School English Club"** that can be created in the Educational Unit.

Now examples of: **"Inside School "Wide Spread" of English**



English Surround



Note: In test times, the topics on classroom walls, to be evaluated, can be covered with cheap sheets of paper, like those used to pack (or with sheet of old newspapers).

Now, Suggestions on “OUTSIDE SCHOOL WIDESPREAD of English”.



With the gentle agreement of owners of many stores, bakeries, fruit stores, etc. near the school, the Group of students of the “School English Club” can write and glue, beside the different products, their names (and pronunciation) In English, also outside and on shop windows of these market places.

HOW TO DO IT ...IN DETAILS?

Working as a Team, the teacher(s), and those students who like English (from different Grades) could write – like any “Mad Graffiti maker” - and, at least, once a month, new printed English material, but always, using well written and well presentable, and easily readable, handwritings. Also integrating those students who like, and “dominate,” computers (every school has got one). So, creating: Didactical charts, colored attractive posters, amusing, necessary, and illustrated tables of verbs, decorated lists of vocabulary on specific and different topics that will be, really, “eve catchers” for students... and for “24 hours a day”!

Themes, such as: Computers; use and vocabulary, with verbs related to the topic, showing practical sentences associated to the theme, with drawings and pictures. Other teaching illustrated Grammar Tenses, with easy examples to be understood, as The Future Tense, The Now Present, etc. Making Didactical pictures with vocabulary related to different types of Clothes, Food, School Tools, Useful English Expressions, Common Adjectives, Personal Pronouns, etc. (Every word with its own pronunciation) (between brackets).

Themes and creations are unlimited for a creative Teacher, for the One who likes his very, very important, delicate, and highly esteemed job. (Well, at least in other true developed countries).

These are, also, very low cost activities too, as do the other suggestion because our students can use even cuttings from magazines to create vocabulary, grammar, and, in general, didactical tasks, also creating some funny ones, this to attract the attention of that “student-viewer-reader-learner” people.

Markers, colored pencils, glue, cuttings, scissors, and cheap sheets of papers are all what is needed. Creativity is hat Cannot be absent nor never lack in any class, less in an English one.

Well, with this Essay I hope to contribute – with my modest, but genuine, original, personal ideas, and thought, (which also are “Teacher “Bonny’s”) – to try to achieve that important, necessary and clever wish of thousands, or millions of people, in Chile and abroad, to solve that urgent necessity of getting soon, one main and universal Language to communicate Mankind, this not only for “Internet motives” (or “Business ones”), but also because it is necessary to increase friendship and understanding among Nations, task is being done in an almost ready Commercial, but not 100% Communicative Global World, that we expect be a Very much Better one, with one well known language and with opportunities for everyone who, peacefully and positively, inhabits this God’s Earth.

So, for its own particular easy characteristics, The most appropriate Language to Build that Truly New, and more Friendly Communicational Global World is, doubtless, The English language.